



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5290

LCO No. 1419



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING ACCESS TO STATE PARKS AND FORESTS
FOR CERTAIN CONDUCT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
4 adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 for
5 the maintenance of order, safety and sanitation upon the lands under
6 the commissioner's control and for the protection of trees and other
7 property and the preservation of the natural beauty thereof and fix
8 penalties not exceeding a fine of ninety dollars for violation of such
9 regulations. The commissioner may prohibit the possession or
10 consumption of alcoholic beverages on such lands provided, for any
11 such lands where the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages
12 was not prohibited by the commissioner as of October 1, 1999, the
13 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
14 provisions of chapter 54, to prohibit such activity. Such regulations shall
15 be posted in conspicuous places upon such lands. Any person who

16 violates any such regulation shall have committed an infraction and
 17 may pay the fine by mail or plead not guilty under the provisions of
 18 section 51-164n. The provisions of section 51-164m shall not apply to this
 19 section. Any person convicted of a violation of such regulations or who
 20 forfeits a bond taken upon any such complaint may be prohibited from
 21 entering any state park by the commissioner for not more than one year
 22 from the date of such conviction. Any person who: (1) Threatens or
 23 commits an act of violence against any person in any state park or forest,
 24 or (2) vandalizes any property in any state park or forest may be
 25 prohibited from entering any state park or forest by the commissioner
 26 for not more than one year from the date of such act.

27 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
 28 and any regulation adopted pursuant to said subsection, the
 29 commissioner shall authorize any person to take mushrooms from any
 30 lands under the control of the commissioner provided such taking is for
 31 personal use only. The state shall have no liability to any person or the
 32 heirs or assigns of any such person who engages in the taking of
 33 mushrooms from any lands under the control of the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2022	23-4

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit any person who commits any threat or act of violence against any person in a state park or forest or who vandalizes state property in a state park or forest from entering any state park or forest for a period of up to one year.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]